

Claims

1. A television system including a display screen (2), a broadcast data receiver (3) for receiving and processing digital data to provide audio, video and/or auxiliary data, at least part of said data being used to generate an electronic programme guide (EPG), said EPG being used to provide channel and/or television programme listings/schedules and/or information for display on said display screen, said system including remote control means (6) for controlling one or more functions thereof, and characterised in that one or more channels and/or programmes which are displayed in the EPG are selected by the user using the remote control (6), and said selected channel(s)/programme(s) from the EPG are assigned to one or more pre-defined control buttons on the remote control, thereafter allowing access to said one or more channels/programmes by user selection of the appropriate pre-defined control button.
2. A television system according to claim 1 characterised in that the one or more selected channels/programmes relate to pre-determined criteria.
3. A television system according to claim 1 characterised in that programmes and/or channels are assigned to the four coloured (fast text) buttons (8, 10, 12, 14) on the remote control (6).
4. A television system according to claim 1 characterised in that the user assigns channels/programmes to said one or more pre-defined control buttons.

5. A television system according to claim 1 characterised in that a broadcaster or manufacturer of the television system assigns channels/programmes to said one or more pre-defined control buttons.
6. A television system according to claim 2 characterised in that the pre-determined criteria includes one or more subject matter categories.
7. A television system according to claim 2 characterised in that the pre-determined criteria includes one or more user-selected favourite channels.
8. A television system according to claim 1 characterised in that the EPG display is provided with a pop-up window (18) displayable on the display screen (2) to inform the user which subject matter categories and /or favourite channels/programmes are assigned or mapped to which control buttons on the remote control unit (6).
9. A television system according to claim 1 characterised in that if two or more channels and/or programmes are assigned to a control button relating to particular pre-determined criteria, the user can scroll through the one or more channels/programmes assigned to that button using scroll and/or directional buttons on the remote control (6).
10. A broadcast data receiver (BDR) (3) for receiving and processing digital data to provide audio, video and/or auxiliary data, at least part of said data being used to generate an electronic programme guide (EPG), said EPG being used to provide channel and/or television programme listings/schedules and/or information for

display on a display screen (2) connected to or forming an integral part of said BDR (3), a remote control means (6) is provided for controlling one or more functions of said BDR, and characterised in that one or more channels and/or programmes relating to pre-determined criteria which are displayed in the EPG are selected by the user using the remote control (6), said selected channel(s)/programme(s) from the EPG are assigned to one or more pre-defined control buttons on the remote control (6), thereafter allowing access to said one or more channels/programmes relating to said pre-determined criteria by user selection of the appropriate pre-defined control button.

11. An electronic programme guide (EPG), said EPG being generated from data received and processed via a broadcast data receiver (3), said EPG used to provide channel and/or television programme listings/schedules and/or information for display on a display screen (2) connected to or forming an integral part of said BDR (3), a remote control means (6) is provided for controlling one or more functions of said BDR (3), and characterised in that one or more channels and/or programmes relating to pre-determined criteria which are displayed in the EPG are selected by the user using the remote control (6), said selected channel(s)/programme(s) from the EPG are assigned to one or more pre-defined control buttons on the remote control (6), thereafter allowing access to said one or more channels/programmes relating to said pre-determined criteria by user selection of the appropriate pre-defined control button.

12. A method of assigning one or more channels and/or programmes relating to pre-determined criteria from an EPG to one or more pre-defined control buttons on a remote control unit (6) of a television system, said television system including a display screen (2), a broadcast data receiver (3) for receiving and processing digital data to provide audio, video and/or auxiliary data, at least part of said data being used to generate an electronic programme guide (EPG), said EPG being used to provide channel and/or television programme listings/schedules and/or information for display on said display screen (2), said remote control unit (6) for controlling one or more functions of said television system, and characterised in that in that said method includes the steps of selecting one or more channels and/or programmes relating to pre-determined criteria which are displayed on an EPG of said television system, depressing a user-defined control button on said remote control (6) for a predetermined period of time for each selected channel and thereby assigning one or more channels and/or programmes relating to pre-determined criteria to said remote control button.
13. A method according to claim 12 characterised in that once the selected channels and/or programmes have been assigned to a remote control button, the user is required to depress the control button to view said channels and/or programmes relating to said pre-determined criteria.
14. A method according to claim 12 characterised in that, when the channel and/or programme is selected and assigned to a button of pre-determined criteria, a confirmation message appears on the display screen (2)

and/or remote control (6) to inform the user that the channel and/or programme has been assigned to the depressed control button.

15. A method according to claim 12 characterised in that the EPG identifies user selected channels and/or programmes which have been assigned to one or more pre-defined buttons on the remote control (6) when the EPG is displayed on the display screen (2).

16. A method according to claim 12 characterised in that once one or more channels and/or programmes relating to a pre-determined criteria have been assigned to a button on the remote control (6), any existing channels/programmes previously assigned to that button are replaced by the newly selected channels/programmes.

17. A method according to claim 16 characterised in that a message is displayed on the display screen (2) to inform the user that an existing channel and/or programme has previously been assigned to the button, thereby providing the user with the option of selecting a different button if required.